

Message Text

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FOR IOP/M, IBS NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION

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SUBJ: SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA PROTESTS SOUTH AFRICAN
PARTICIPATION IN DAVIS CUP COMPETITION

YAOUNDE, APRIL 21.. THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA
(SCSA), IN A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER ON
MONDAY, APRIL 18, STRONGLY PORTESTED AGAINST THE PARTICIPATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA IN DAVIS CUP TENNIS COMPETITION, AND URGED
PRESIDENT CARTER TO QUOTE DO (HIS) BEST TO DISCOURAGE APARTHEID
POLICY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND USA SOUTHERN AFRICA SPORTS CONTACTS
UNQUOTE.

THE PROTEST BECAME PUBLIC TODAY WHEN IT WAS REPORTED IN THE
DAILY CAMEROON TRIBUNE.

SCSA SECRETARY-GENERAL JEAN-CLAUDE GANGA CONTENDED IN HIS
TELEGRAM OF PROTEST THAT ONLY COMPLETE ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
FROM INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITION OFFERS A POSSIBILITY
OF PROVOKING A CHANGE IN THAT COUNTRYS APARTHEID POLICIES.
HE ALLEGED THAT THE U.S. APPROACH OF LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN TO
SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS IN
ORDER TO GIVE THEM TIME TO CHANGE THEIR POLICIES HAS NOT WORKED,
AND THAT THE ONLY DISCERNABLE CHANGES HAVE COME ABOUT AS A RESULT
OF A DECISION IN 1970 TO CUT OFF SOUTH AFRICA FROM PARTICIPATION
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IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS. THIS IS A REFERENCE TO A
DECISION MADE THAT YEAR BY THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
TO SUSPEND SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT.

THE MOVEMENT TO OUST SOUTH AFRICA FROM ALL INTERNATIONAL
SPORTS COMPETITION HAS BEEN CATHERING MOMENTUM SINCE 1963, WHEN
OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES FIRST REQUESTED PRETORIAS EXCLUSION
BECAUSE OF ITS RACIAL POLICIES.

MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES WENT A STEP FURTHER WHEN THEY BOYCOTTED THE 1976 OLYMPIC GAMES BECAUSE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF NEW ZEALAND, WHICH MAINTAINS SPORTS TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY APPROVED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MEMBER STATES TO REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS EVENTS WITH ALL COUNTRIES MAINTAINING SPORTS TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THIS RESOLUTION WAS AIMED AT LEAST IN PART AT THE DAVIS CUP MATCH BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOUTH AFRICA SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 16-17.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED THAT SINCE AMERICAN SPORT ORGANIZATIONS ARE PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT ARE FUNDED FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, IT HAS NO AUTHORITY OR CONTROL OVER THEM AND IS THEREFORE LIMITED TO USING ITS INFLUENCE WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO INSURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THE U.S. ALSO FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO PENALIZE ALL AMERICAN ATHLETES FOR THE DECISION OF A FEW U.S. SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS TO COMPETE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

THE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM GIVEN TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN YAOUNDE ON APRIL 18 FOR TRANSMISSION TO PRESIDENT CARTER IS AS FOLLOWS:

MR. JIMMY CARTER THE PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON D.C.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA STRONGLY PROTEST THE CURRENT TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA TENNIS TEAM TO USA STOP SINCE 1963 WE URGED FOR CHANGE ON APARTHEID SPORTING POLICY IN SOUTH
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AFRICA MANY COUNTRIES USA INCLUDED REQUESTED US NOT TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO SOUTH AFRICA SPORTSMEN TO ALLOW THEM TIME TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN POLICY STOP NOT UNTIL 1970 AFTER SOUTH AFRICA CUT OFF FROM PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS INTERNATIONALLY THE WORLD NOTICED CHANGE IN ATTITUDE STOP WE ARE CONVINCED THE WORLD TOTAL ISOLATION TO SOUTH AFRICA WILL BRING OVERDUE CHANGE IN SPORTS POLICY STOP MR. PRESIDENT AFRICA STRONGLY URGE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DO YOUR BEST TO DISCOURAGE APARTHEID POLICY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND USA SOUTHERN AFRICA SPORTS CONTACTS STOP PLEASE ACCEPT OUR HIGHEST REGARDS STOP. (SIGNED) JEAN - CLAUDE GANGA, SEC-GEN S.C.SA. ITEM.
PRILLAMAN

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